

January 30, 2021
Reno County Courthouse Annex
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of the Reno County Commissioners held a special Work Study Session on 2021 Goals at the Reno County Courthouse Annex with Chairman Ron Hirst, Commissioner Ron Sellers, Commissioner Daniel Friesen, County Administrator Randy Partington, and County Clerk Donna Patton, present.

At 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Hirst called the meeting to order and turned the meeting over to Mr. Partington to discuss what direction to go.

Mr. Partington wrote down a list of short-term and long-term goals the Board would like to accomplish. Listed are those goals.

1. Housing
2. Chamber Relationship
3. Economic Development Reserve
4. Annual meeting with City Mayors
5. Joint governing body discussions
6. Technology - Internal use & Zoom.
7. Reporting of Finances
8. Simplify Utility Application Process for Water & Wastewater
9. Cash Reserve Policy
10. Values, Vision, Mission

Mr. Hirst would like a study to see if there is a need for a Rural Housing Incentive District (RHID) in Reno County. Mr. Partington suggested a county-wide assessment.

Mr. Sellers thought Reno County should be a member of the Hutch/Reno County Chamber. It was also discussed that the commission would like reports on economic development from the Chamber or the county administrator.

Mr. Sellers mentioned that the Mayor's forum met every 2 or 3 months and suggested that maybe they should just have an annual meeting.

Mr. Sellers asked about our EMS funding. Mr. Partington explained how Reno County is charged for costs by the hospital that reflect the difference between their EMS expenses and revenues.

Mr. Friesen suggested spotlighting employees that make efficiency changes for the County, in the monthly employee newsletter.

Mr. Sellers suggested going out to any community when there is a concern or a need.

Mr. Hirst would like to see improved communication so when a taxpayer wants to comment on any Board meeting, they can do so via Zoom or a similar product.

Mr. Friesen suggested Mr. Partington work with departments to use technology to be more efficient and to look at various options for software that may be needed. He then added a directive for staff that if technology is purchased it needs to be used by all that can benefit.

Following Mr. Friesen's request for a summary of all departments, Mr. Partington stated that he would work on a database that shows an organizational chart that can be clicked on to reveal a summary of at department's staffing, budget and an overall summary.

Mr. Sellers would like for the county to be as efficient as possible when it comes to the application process for the water and wastewater application. Mr. Partington will work with the health department on this request.

At 10:50 Mr. Hirst called for a 5-minute break.

At 10:55 the meeting reconvened with all three commissioners, Mr. Partington and Mrs. Patton present.

A brief discussion ensued about the State of Kansas' proposed Transparency Bill.

Mr. Sellers thought the general fund's cash balance is too high and would like it below 50%. A brief discussion ensued about transferring some funds into the county's reserve funds for future use on unexpected costs, including economic development projects, would be helpful.

Mr. Sellers mentioned that the current Commission Chambers is not feasible and would like to look at creating something on the first floor. Mr. Partington said for \$8,800 we could get the same firm that is working on the Courthouse improvements, to

draw up plans for this. Mr. Friesen suggested finding a temporary location until this process is completed.

Mr. Hirst asked how best to reference our vision and goals to employees. The commission directed Randy to work on ideas.

Mr. Friesen asked about statewide solid waste fees and asked what other counties are charging. He would like to see this fee spread to refuse companies that could in turn charge their customers and utilize tipping fees.

Mr. Friesen mentioned that he was proud of County staff and the way the vaccination clinic was handled on Friday.

Mr. Sellers thought the Health Department is doing a good job with the vaccination process.

Mr. Friesen said that the Hospital had a remote pharmacy there and if possible, he would like for Reno County to share in that cost. Mr. Partington mentioned that Reno County is working on a contract with the Hutchinson Regional Medical Center and the Hutchison Clinic to provide volunteers to administer the vaccine. He also commented that the health department was working on paying Dr. Pauly a health consulting fee for his advice to Reno County.

Mr. Partington will bring the architect drafting design option to the Commission at a later date.

The commission stressed that they wanted to review the goals and a summary of today's meeting at upcoming meetings to ensure progress is made on the recommendations.

Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers to approve the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on February 5, 2021 of \$2,049,033.70 as submitted. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of
3-0.

At 12:30 p.m. the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 9, 2021.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
dp

Date